mendations of National Transport Policy Committee relating to Coastal Shipping were coordination of Coastal operations, modernisation of Coastal fleet, freedom of operations, simplification of custom procedures, improvement in port facilities, priority berthing for coastal vessels, simplification and rationalisation of procedures for revision and fixation of freight rates, etc. Salient recommendations of National Shipping Board were formation of a separate Directorate for development of coastal shipping, initiative from S.D.F.C. to allocate and reserve 20-25% of its funds for coastal shipping, development of shipyards competent to construct/repair coastal vessels, differentiation of import/export cargo vis-a-vis coastal cargo, development and modernisation of intermediate and major ports, reduction of construction and operational costs to make coastal shipping viable, etc.

(c) The Government have taken various measures to encourage development of coastal shipping. These include the simplification of custom procedure in respect of coastal vessels, delegation of powers to fix/revise coastal tariff, permission to acquire fresh tonnage for coastal shipping with reference to the age and fuel efficiency of the vessels and concessional rates of port dues and port charges. Coastal movement of coal for Thermal Power Stations located in the Eastern and Western Coasts of South India, is actively encouraged as a matter of conscious Government Policy. Coastal Shipping is moving ever increasing quantities of bulk cargoes, particularly coal and P.O.L.

Grant of Funds to Sick Units under Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Scheme

4148. SHRI SHANKERSINGH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the norms for grant of funds to sick textile units under the Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Scheme;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to relax the guidelines for releasing funds under the above scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme applies to such textile units which are either licensed under I (D&R) Act, 1951 or registered with Textile Commissioner as medium scale units and which are declared completely closed after 5-6-85 under section 25(o) of the Industrial Dispute Act or alternatively an official liquidator is appointed under the Company's Act, 1956 in the process of winding up of the unit.

(b) and (c) The matter is being examined.

Maintenance of National Highway No. 17 in Kerala Sector

4149. SHRI M. RAMANNA RAI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Highway No. 17 passing through Kerala is not in a road worthy condition;

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned for improvement and maintenance of National Highway No. 17 in Kerala sector and the amount actually spent;

(c) whether the Union Government have received any representation from the Government of Kerala in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No. Sir. National Highway No. 17 is being kept in a traffic worthy condition and any damages due to rains are being attended to.

(b) During the Seventh Plan and Annual Plan, 1990-91 respectively, estimates amounting to Rs. 22.44 crores and Rs. 10.00 crores were sanctioned for the development of NH-17 in Kerala. Details of the amounts spent for the development and maintenance and repairs of various National Highways in Kerala including NH-17 during the above periods are as under:

	Development (Rs. crores)	Maintenance and Repairs (Rs. crores)
1985—90 (Seventh Plan)	46.30	21.15
1990-91 (Annual Plan)	9.81	4.39

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Ordnance Factory and Army Recruitment-Cum-Training Centre at *Osmanabad (Maharashtra)*

4150. SHRI ARVIND TULSHIRAM KAMBLE: *Will the Minister of* DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to establish a new ordnance factory and an army recruitment-cum-training centre at Osmanabad in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, when it is likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Income Tax Charged on Dearness Allowance Credited to G. P. F. Account

4151. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR KANODIA:
SHRI RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA:
SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the instalments of the Dearness Allowance credited to the GPF account of officers drawing pay above Rs. 3500 per month are computed for the purpose of income tax;

(b) if so, the rate of income tax being charged thereon;

(c) whether these instalments of Dearness Allowance are given income tax rebate being savings of the officers;